

Edinburgh Leisure: Increase in Board Membership

The City of Edinburgh Council

27 January 2005

Purpose of report

1. To seek the Council's approval of Edinburgh Leisure Ltd's request to increase the membership of its board from 13 to 15.

Main report

2. Established in 1998 by the City Council, Edinburgh Leisure is responsible for the management and operation of the Council's sports facilities. There are currently 13 members of the company who also serve as Directors. The members have the ultimate control of the company, subject to providing and operating the services in accordance with the specification agreed with the City of Edinburgh Council.
3. The Company's Memorandum and Articles state that the Board will comprise:
 - 5 Directors nominated by the Council
 - 6 Co-opted Directors (one having particular responsibility for uses of Edinburgh Leisure facilities)
 - 1 Director nominated by Edinburgh Sports Council
 - 1 Director nominated by Edinburgh Trade Unions
4. It is a requirement of Edinburgh Leisure's Memorandum and Articles that it obtains the Council's consent to any proposed changes to the membership of the Board.
5. Following a review of the workings of its Board last year, Edinburgh Leisure is proposing to increase its Board Membership from 13 to 15 to address the following issues:
 - A need to develop expertise of Board Members
 - Sharing of workload
 - Succession planning

6. In seeking to increase the Board Membership, the number of Co-opted Directors would increase from 6 to 8, potentially diminishing the Council's influence, as at present the Council nominates 5 of the current 13 Directors (38.4% of the total). If the Board is increased to 15, Councillors would represent 33.3% of the membership.
7. Other significant Culture and Leisure charitable organisations grant-aided by the Council also have Councillors on their Boards:
 - Edinburgh Festival Society – a maximum of 21 directors, with 7 being Council appointed (33.3% of the total)
 - Royal Lyceum Theatre Company – a maximum of 10 Directors, with 4 being Council appointed (40% of the total)
 - Festival City Theatres Trust – the maximum number is not specified but the Memorandum and Articles specify that councillors represent 30.77% of the total Board Members (currently four).
8. In the light of the fact that an increase of 2 non-Councillor members on the Edinburgh Leisure Board would bring it into line with other Culture Leisure trusts with which the Council has a close connection, it is recommended that the Council approve the proposed increase in Board Membership.
9. In order that non-Councillor members of the Edinburgh Leisure Board should be provided with training on the relationship between the Council and Edinburgh Leisure, I recently proposed that such training, provided by the Council, should be included in the induction process for Board members. This was approved by the Edinburgh Leisure Board and it is suggested that the Council endorse this approach.

Recommendations

10. The Council is recommended to approve:
 - a) the increase in Board Membership of Edinburgh Leisure from 13 to 15.
 - b) the provision of training for non-Councillor Edinburgh Leisure Board members in the relationship between the Council and the company.



HERBERT COUTTS
Director of Culture and Leisure

Appendices

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Wards affected City-Wide

**Background
Papers** Correspondence held at 23 Waterloo Place